

7 Rec'd PCT/PTO 20 SEP 2005

10/549617

CLAIMS

1. A tracheostomy device including a tubular member (10, 10', 10'') adapted to provide a gas passage into the trachea (2) through an opening (4) in neck tissues (5) and an external retainer (13) for retaining the tubular member with the external surface (7) of the neck adjacent the opening (4), characterised in that the patient end (11) of the tubular member (10, 10', 10'') terminates adjacent the internal end of the opening (4), and that the device includes an internal retainer (14, 45, 59, 61) for retaining the tubular member with the internal surface (6) of the trachea adjacent the opening.
2. A tracheostomy device according to Claim 1, characterised in that the device includes a seal (3, 60) for substantially sealing the trachea above the opening (4) into the trachea.
3. A tracheostomy device according to Claim 2, characterised in that the seal (3, 60) includes a fluid passage (34) opening at one end above the seal and extending out of the trachea via the opening (4).
4. A tracheostomy device according to Claim 3, characterised in that the fluid passage (34) is a suction passage.
5. A tracheostomy device according to any one of Claims 2 to 4, characterised in that the seal (3, 60) includes a deformable annular ring (30, 60) arranged to engage the surface (6) of the trachea (2).
6. A tracheostomy device according to Claim 5, characterised in that the annular ring (30, 60) is inflatable.
7. A tracheostomy device according to Claim 5, characterised in that the annular ring (30, 60) includes a resilient foam.